

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of Meeting 95-5

held

Friday, 22 September 1995 at 2:00 p.m. in GM 403-2

Present: Dr. D.J. Taddeo (Chair); Dr. M.O. Ahmad; Mr. M. Ahmadi (Graduate Rep.); Dr. A.J. Al-Khalili; Dr. C. Bédard; Dr. J. Drolet; Dr. M. El-Badry; Dr. P. Fazio; Dr. D. Feldman; Dr. C. Giguère; Dr. R. Guy; Dr. K. Ha; Mr. A. Hanna (Graduate Rep.); Ms. L. Harris (Library); Dr. S. Hoa; Mr. D. Janssen (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. G. Joos; Ms. S. Kiruluta (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. C. Lam; Dr. V. Latinovic; Dr. H.F. Li; Dr. J. Lightstone; Dr. F. Lowy; Dr. H. McQueen; Ms. H. Patel (Undergrad. Rep.); Mr. M. Parizelli (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. D. Probst; Dr. T. Radhakrishnan; Dr. A.S. Ramamurthy; Ms. S. Sabbag (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. T. Stathopoulos; Dr. C. Suen; Dr. L. Tao; Mr. T. Too (Registrar's Office); Dr. G. Turski (Secretary)

Visitors: Dr. G. Vatistas; Mr. L. Zack (Public Relations)

Regrets: Dr. A. Bulgak; Dr. J. Campanelli; Dr. T. Krepec

1. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair proposed the addition of two items for consideration at the meeting: a) replacement of Faculty representatives on Senate and the FPC (for members who are on sabbatical leave during the 1995-96 academic year); and b) nomination and election of members for the Faculty Appeals Committee. Upon an inquiry from Dr. Probst about the proper manner of replacing members of the FPC, it was agreed that the matter would be fully discussed before any specific procedure was adopted.

Motion 95-5-1 The agenda was unanimously adopted, as modified. (C. Lam, T. Stathopoulos)

2. Adoption of Minutes

Motion 95-5-2 The Minutes of Meeting 95-5 (19 May 1995) were unanimously approved. (C. Bédard, R. Guy)

3. Rector's Remarks

Dr. Lowy was welcomed by Dr. Taddeo. He stated that he was personally very pleased to find himself at Concordia and expressed gratitude for the warm reception he has received from the University community as well as the frankness that has characterized his contacts to date with the institution's various sectors.

While the Rector went on to note the upcoming accreditation exercise and the overcoming of past wounds and divisions as major challenges that lie ahead for the Faculty, he also emphasized the Faculty's strength and importance for the University and for how Concordia is perceived by the outside industrial community especially. Dr. Lowy pledged his support and that of his Office for all and any efforts that will enhance the Faculty's primary objectives of offering quality education and sustaining strong research and scholarship.

The degree of impending budgetary compressions--currently estimated at \$30 mln. over the next three years--will force major changes within the University that will go well beyond across-the-board, horizontal scaling down of academic and service activities. The institution's administration must therefore engage in intensive planning that will establish Concordia's academic priorities within a clearly and openly articulated vision of the institution. Dr. Lowy emphasized the necessity of involving broadly in this process the University's various constituencies. He suggested also that, ideally, the academic planning--set within explicitly understood financial parameters--should drive the budget, rather than vice versa. Notwithstanding the resistance to change and conservatism of universities, Dr. Lowy expressed optimism that the coming changes will have a positive outcome for Concordia.

4. Vice-Rector, Academic's Remarks

Dr. Lightstone was welcomed by Dr. Taddeo. He reported on the extensive consultation he has engaged in with numerous individuals since his appointment and stated that for the immediate and mid-term future his Office intends to pursue, among others, four major issues: 1) planning; 2) the appraisal system; 3) pedagogical enhancement; and 4) pro-active effort at retaining the students who are accepted to Concordia. The Vice-Rector, Academic elaborated briefly on each of these items respectively.

In light of the diminishing funding for research from such traditional sources as SSHRC, NSERC, and FCAR Concordia must--as do other universities--secure support from elsewhere to fulfil the traditional objective of a university to generate, transmit, and preserve knowledge. Reiterating Dr. Lowy's emphasis on strong, goal-oriented planning, Dr. Lightstone also stressed the complementary

need for adequate mechanisms that will ensure the implementation of plans in a timely manner.

Drs. Lowy and Lightstone agreed both to receive questions or comments from members of Council.

In response to Dr. Lam who alluded to an interview the Rector recently accorded a *Le Devoir* journalist, Dr. Lowy agreed that strong enrolment is one criterion by which programmes can be judged as strong. Dr. Lowy went on to emphasize that programmes that do less well need not be necessarily abandoned by the University; inter-university cooperation (with appropriate arrangements for transfer of credits) can and should be sought to maintain the breadth of university-level offerings in Montreal and to maintain adequate library resources.

In Dr. Probst's view, the current Concordia mission statement is too abstract and utopian to be of value. He proposed that a more practical mission statement should tie the University's objectives with the broader Canadian goals of development within the highly competitive global, technology-driven economy.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Chair thanked Drs. Lowy and Lightstone for their presentations. He pledged to continue working for the betterment of the Faculty and expressed his appreciation for the support and confidence he has received from senior administrators, faculty members, staff and students regarding the extension of his appointment as Dean.

Dr. Taddeo also thanked the decanal team for their support during the past three months in particular. He explained that his decision to remain Dean was motivated by a desire to continue to move the Faculty forward as well as a conviction about the quality and strength of the Faculty and its importance for the University and the broader educational milieu of Quebec. Many good initiatives have been put forward and there exists strong commitment on the part of the various constituencies within the Faculty to see them through.

In view of the current and developing budget realities, the upcoming twenty months will undoubtedly be critical for the Faculty and the University. Dr. Taddeo outlined four principal objectives for this period: 1) to see the Faculty through the impending period of major changes with a view to ensuring that it and the University reemerge strong at conclusion; 2) to consolidate the efficiency and effectiveness of the Faculty's operations overall; 3) to increase liaison with

the outside community; and 4) to prepare for the Fall 1996 accreditation visit and ensure the best possible outcome for the Faculty.

The pursuit and realization of these objectives will demand considerable effort on the part of the Faculty's administration, professors, and staff. Dr. Taddeo expressed hope that the coming period will be infused by a spirit of cooperation reminiscent of the Fall 1994 effort that resulted in the successful resolution of the crisis with the Industrial Engineering programme.

As the deadline for nominations for Honorary Doctorates is soon approaching, Dr. Taddeo urged Council members to give this matter serious consideration so that a nomination may be recommended for approval to the Graduate Ceremonies Committee following Council's October 20th meeting.

The unusual dates for Council's December and April meetings are due to the Senate and Council policy not to hold meetings during exam periods.

Dr. Taddeo offered congratulations to Mr. Wei Yan and Dr. George Vatistas for a recent best paper award from the Computers in Engineering Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He concluded his remarks with the announcement that Dr. Vatistas has accepted the position of Associate Dean (Student Affairs).

6. Graduate Curriculum Changes (ECFC Doc. 95-5-1)

Dr. Stathopoulos gave a brief overview of ECFC Doc. 95-5-1. He emphasized that the minor curriculum changes listed under items 1-4 in the document carry no resource implications.

Motion
95-5-3

That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science approve the minor curriculum modifications listed under items 1-4 in ECFC Doc. 95-5-1 and recommend them to the School of Graduate Studies and Senate for adoption in the academic year 1996-97 (T. Stathopoulos, D. Probst)

Vote: Carried unanimously

Item 5 in ECFC Doc. 95-5-1 involves the establishment by the Department of Computer Science of a new joint programme: Master in Software Engineering. Dr. Stathopoulos explained that the Graduate Studies Committee has reviewed the proposed programme and approved it in principle, subject to the receipt from the University of the necessary resources. Owing to the cooperative character of the endeavour--six other institutions are participating--the resource implications are lesser than one might otherwise expect in an establishment of a new programme.

Dr. Lam explained that the concept behind the programme was initiated by CRIM, and that the committee responsible for putting together the programme proposal also received substantial input from industry. It appears that currently there is very strong interest in and demand for Software Engineering. Echoing these remarks, Dr. Giguère provided concrete examples of the applicability of the skills developed in this field.

A brief discussion ensued regarding admission requirements. It was decided to specify that an individual with a degree in Computer Engineering would also be eligible to enter this programme.

Motion
95-5-4

That the proposal for a joint Master in Software Engineering as outlined in ECFC Doc. 95-5-1 and modified above be approved, subject to the receipt from the University of the necessary resources, and recommended to the School of Graduate Studies and Senate for implementation in the 1996-97 academic year (C. Lam, M. Sabbag)

Vote: Carried unanimously

7.

Other

- Replacement of members of Senate and the Faculty Personnel Committee who are currently on sabbatical leave

A replacement must be named for the sabbaticant Dr. V. Patel who represents the Faculty on Senate. Dr. Taddeo reported that in a discussion of the matter by the Faculty's Executive Committee, a consensus emerged that it would be useful to have, aside from the Dean, another member of the decanal team represent the Faculty on that body.

Motion
95-5-5

That Dr. T. Stathopoulos be nominated to replace Dr. V. Patel as a member of Senate for the academic year 1995-96 (P. Fazio, D. Feldman)

Vote: Carried, with two abstentions

A replacement must be named to the Faculty Personnel Committee for the sabbaticant Dr. A.K.W. Ahmed. Dr. Stathopoulos explained that the FPC is constituted bi-annually through elections of persons jointly nominated by the Dean and the President of CUFA. However, there are no provisions in the CUFA Collective Agreement dealing with the replacement of members.

As no consensus emerged on the appropriate procedure for replacing Dr. Ahmed, Dr. Taddeo suggested that the matter may perhaps be most prudently settled through the standard electoral process.

- **Faculty Appeals Committee**

The Secretary informed Council that, upon being contacted by the Office of the Dean, Drs. S. Ramachandran (ECED), C. Goldman (CED), and F. Haghighat (CBS) have agreed to serve on the Faculty Appeals Committee if approved by Council.

Motion
95-5-6

That Drs. S. Ramachandran, C. Goldman, and F. Haghighat be appointed as members of the Faculty Appeals Committee (R. Guy, C. Bédard)

Vote: Carried unanimously

- **Complementary Studies Committee**

Alluding to last year's Council discussions, Dr. McQueen urged that a meeting of this committee be called in the near future.

- ***ECS Status Report***

The above-noted document was distributed for information. Dr. Taddeo stated that he welcomes feedback on the report which, while providing an update on the Faculty's situation, is meant also to serve as a planning tool for its development.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.